

Survey No. M; 26/10/40

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Jerusalem M. E. Parsonage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 17 Wood Lane

not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Jerusalem Methodist Church

street & number 21 Wood Lane

telephone no.: 424-0464

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 194

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 258

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register - West Montgomery Avenue Historic District - 1974
M-NCPPC - 1976

date 1976 ☒ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This modest three bay by three bay rectangular two-story house sits on a narrow lot adjoining Jerusalem Church. It faces south and has a brick foundation. The stuccoed frame parsonage has a gently sloping flat roof and is situated close to the concrete sidewalk on Wood Lane.

The three-bay main facade has a full-width screened porch and molded cornice. The glass and wood paneled front door, located on the southwest bay, is set into a plainly trimmed frame. Two windows to the southeast and the three second floor windows are two-over-two wood double-hung sashes set in simply trimmed frames.

On the west facade, a small enclosed one-story porch is set in the recessed two northwest bays to complete the rectangular form. The east facade has a pair of two-over-two windows on each floor towards the northeast corner, leaving most of the wall blank.

The house was surfaced with white stucco in the 1950s, but retains its original overall form and detailing. 17 Wood Lane is characteristic of small-town domestic buildings in the vernacular style.

Footnotes for #8

1. Land Records 194/258 (1907).
2. Ibid. JGH 5/499 (1856) Nathan Martin also owned part of lot 76 on Adams Street near the Miller House at #5. It was improved at \$50 in 1853, so may have been some sort of shed or shop.
3. A Rural Survey in Maryland, 156 5th Avenue, N.Y., pp. 92-101. The Pamphlet by Department of Church and Country Life, Board of Home Missions of Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (This published pamphlet is not dated, except by a handwritten notation "1912".) However the Washington Conference of the Methodist Church first lists the building in 1913, valued at \$1,200.
4. Ibid, p. 100.

3. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The emphasis on racial separation bolstered by the "Jim Crow" laws in the first decades of the 20th century meant that the church and especially its ministers played a larger part in the social and educational life of the Negro than at any time since slavery. The local minister was important to the black community, and to encourage the best men, the urban black churches, like Jerusalem Methodist Episcopal in Rockville, constructed modern and convenient houses near the Church and its people. The Jerusalem Parsonage has housed the Church's ministers since 1912 and is virtually unchanged.

In 1907 the Trustees of the Jerusalem M. E. Church on Wood Lane bought several pieces of land abutting the Church.¹ Most of the new purchases lay on the east side of the Church bordering Wood Lane and Frederick Road, and most of it had belonged to two families since early 19th century. One of the families descended from free black Samuel Martin, who was taxed for lot 32 in 1831. Nathan Martin owned parts of both lots 31 and 32 in the 1840 Tax Records; the 1850 Census described Nathan as "mulatto, blacksmith, age 39". In 1856 Nathan deeded lot 31 in trust for the benefit of his five children.²

It appears that there may have been several small shops or business on lot 31, since there were two owners of the lot, both of whom were white. The Gray family had owned part of the lot since 1802; the final segment was owned by local architect/builder Edwin M. West and his sister.

The house erected in 1912 was a fine one by the standards of the time. The Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church did a social and economic survey of the County in 1912. According to the study, although there were 40 churches for Negro Congregations in the County, only 18 of them had ministers and only six had a minister who tended only one church.³ Jerusalem Church with its own minister and church-owned house was fortunate. The survey recognized the congregation by painting a picture of the Church and called it "one of the best colored Churches in the County". A small part of the new parsonage is visible in the picture; it shows a frame building with open front porch.⁴

The spirit and prestige of the Jerusalem Church has never diminished. In 1954 the congregation made over \$13,000 worth of improvements to their church. In 1961 the expanded membership made it necessary to enlarge the property on the west side. Today, the congregation numbers over 200.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land Records

A Rural Survey in Maryland (Presbyterian Church, c. 1912)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6918 square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 
 Zone Easting Northing

8  Zone Easting Northing

c

[illegible]

E U L L L L L L L L L L

F | | | | | | | | | |

G L L L L L L L L L L L

Н

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parts of Lots 31 & 32, original Town of Rockville

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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date	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel/Glen Leiner, arch. desc.

organization Peerless Rockville

date August 1984

street & number P.O. Box 4262

telephone 762-0096

city or town Rockville

state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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